

## **Abstract**

A method and apparatus for detecting fiducial marking on a material are disclosed. The fiducial marking is characterized by the ability to absorb light in a first wavelength range and to fluoresce in a second wavelength range that is outside the first wavelength range. An excitation source is configured to direct light at the material in the first wavelength range, to cause the fiducial marking material absorb the light in the first wavelength range and to fluoresce in the second wavelength range. A detection device is located at a predetermined site and is configured to optically examine the material at the predetermined detection site, to determine whether fluorescence from the fiducial marking which is in the second wavelength range is detected at the predetermined detection site.

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